

Noviciæ Indicaæ XXII. An undescribed Araliaceous Genus from Upper Burma.—By D. PRAIN.

WITH PLATE I.

[Read 2nd December, 1903.]

Among the plants obtained by a native collector of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, while working in the Kachin Hills under the kind supervision of Lieutenant Cruddas, S.C., Commandant of the Military Police Battalion at Myitkyina, one of the most striking is a hitherto uncharacterised Araliaceous plant which cannot be referred to any known genus of the order. The necessary generic definition, and a detailed description of the species on which the new genus is based, are herewith submitted to the Asiatic Society.

WOODBURNIA PRAIN.

Calycis margo longissime 7–10-dentatus. Petala 5, valvata. Stamina 5, antheræ oblongæ. Discus crassior. Ovarium 8–13-loculare; styli in columnam cylindricam coalti; stigmatibus ad apicem sursum spectantibus. Fructus (immaturus) ovoideus.—Arbuscula aculeata. Folia digitato-palmata. Umbellæ axillares simplices solitariæ pendulæ pro ordine prægrandes. Bracteolæ magnæ lanceolatæ. Pedicelli cum flore continui.

Species singula montium Kachin nucupatorum incola, speciei nulli generum adhuc notorum arcte affinis ideoque pro specie generis cuiusdam novi typica habenda.

WOODBURNIA PENDULIFLORA Prain. Arbuscula 4–5-metralis, caudice simplici aculeato. Folia circa 20 ad caudicis verticem aggregata, digitato-palmata; petiolis crassis 60 cm. longis, laminis ambitu fere circularibus 75 cm. latis; petiolulis 15 cm. longis, alis interpetiolularibus coriaceis margine integerrimis, supra intense viridibus glabris, subtus pallidioribus nervis parce pubescentibus ceterum fere glabris, prorsus arcte connatis; segmentis alarum singulis 8 cm. latis subhorizontaliter 10–12-nervis; lobis vel foliolis oblongis, apice acutis 20 cm. longis 14 cm. latis, margine basi late cuneata vel subtruncata integra excepta argute irregulariterque serrato, coriaceis, supra induimento stellato mox deciduo sparse obsitis, subtus praesertim secus nervos tomento simplici indutis, nervis subbasalibus 5, mediano tamen

iterum nervos 8–10 utrinque emittente. *Inflorescentia* simplex umbellata; pedunculis axillaribus, pendulis, dense rufo-velutinis aculeisque recurvis gracilioribus irregulariter obsitis, 60 cm. longis, 1·5 cm. crassis; umbellis ultra 50-floris. *Flores* longe pedicellati; pedicellis 6–10 cm. longis, apice cum flore continuis ibique 5 cm. crassis, tomento simplici dense contexto prorsus velutinis; bracteolis lanceolatis 2–3·5 cm. longis, basi 5 mm. latis, supra glabrescentibus, subtus dense velutinis. *Calyx* turbinatus 1·25 cm. longus, 1 cm. latus dense rufo-velutinus; dentibus 7–10 lanceolatis æquilongis, 2·5 cm. longis, basi 4 mm. latis, minute sed dense velutinis. *Petala* 5, induplicato-valvata, apice subspathulata rotundata, extus puberula intus glabra, 1 cm. longa, 3·5 mm. lata. *Stamina* 5, filamentis gracilibus, antheris oblongis versatilibus. *Ovarium* 8–13-loculare; stylis in columnam cylindricam centralem glabram 1·5 cm. longam connatis, stigmatibus apicalibus minutis sursum spectantibus; ovulis in loculis singulis solitariis ab apice loculorum pendulis. *Fructus*, hand maturus, subdrupaceus.

BURMA: Kachin; inter Sadon et Myitkyina, alt. 4500', Shaik Muqim!

This very striking plant has the habit, appearance and much the foliage of *Trevesia palmata* and *Brassaiopsis palmata*. The simple umbels are, however, very unusual in the order *Araliacæ* and equally unusual are the very large flowers, the only genus inviting comparison in this respect being the widely different genus *Tupidanthus*. The absence of ripe seeds is unfortunate since it prevents us from definitely deciding whether the genus should be referred to the *Panaceæ* or the *Hedereæ*; the probability, however, is that it belongs to the former series.

The genus is dedicated to the memory of our lamented former President, H.H. Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I.

Woodburnia penduliflora Prain.

- 1, Single lobe of leaf, with portion of interpetiolar wings, $\times \frac{1}{2}$; 2, an inflorescence, $\times \frac{1}{2}$; 3, a single flower, nat. size; 4, flower, dissected, showing stellate calyx-lobes, petals and stamens (removed), disc, and style, nat. size; 5, transverse section of top of ovary; 6, vertical section of ovary; 7, half of ovary in transverse section, showing attachment of ovules, enlarged; 8, ovule, $\times 4$.

